

AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraphs of the specification as indicated below:

At page 11, delete the paragraphs at lines 7-16, and replace them with:

b1
FIG. 11A-11C: FIG. 11A shows a fluorescence histogram of 20,000 cells from a mixture of OmpT⁺ and OmpT⁻ at a ratio of 1:5,000. After sorting, 32 cells were collected and the fluorescence of nine clones was examined by FACS. FIG. 11B and FIG. 11C show representative fluorescence histograms for two of the isolated OmpT⁺ clones.

At pages 91-92, delete the paragraph bridging the pages, and replace it with:

b2
Different strains of bacteria were exposed to the substrate for 10 min. and examined by FACS. The OmpT⁻ negative *E. coli* mutant UT5600, shows no fluorescence. However, UT5600 cells expressing OmpT from a multicopy plasmid (pML19), showed a much larger increase in fluorescence, which continued to increase for over 20 minutes. The mean fluorescence intensity of OmpT⁺ cells was over 30 times higher than that of the cells without the plasmid (*i.e.*, OmpT⁻ cells). Such a difference in OmpT fluorescence is more than sufficient to allow the sorting of cells expressing active enzyme from cells that do not express OmpT.

At page 92, delete the paragraph at lines 16-23, and replace it with:

b3
In other studies it was demonstrated that OmpT⁺ cells can readily be isolated from a population containing a huge excess of OmpT⁻ cells. Specifically, OmpT⁺ cells were mixed with OmpT⁻ cells at a 5,000-fold excess. The mixture was incubated with the substrate, passed through the fluorescence activated cell sorter and cells exhibiting a high fluorescence intensity were isolated. Nine out of nine sorted clones that were isolated produce OmpT. These studies